

# **Charter**

## **Biota Dose Assessment Committee**

### **PURPOSE** -

The Biota Dose Assessment Committee (BDAC) is a topical committee within the Department of Energy (DOE) Technical Standards Program (TSP). The purpose of the BDAC is to:

1. Assist the Department in conceiving, developing, and promoting technical standards and associated guidance for DOE-wide application in assessing radiation doses to biota.
2. Serve as a major forum within DOE for obtaining technical assistance, discussing technical and policy issues, and sharing lessons learned regarding biota dose standards and assessment methods.

### **VALUE STATEMENT** -

The Department needs a forum for sharing information on the development and application of easy, standardized methods for conducting preliminary assessments of doses to aquatic and terrestrial biota. The BDAC will provide a major forum within DOE for obtaining technical assistance, discussing and coordinating positions on technical and policy elements of biota dose standards and biota dose assessment methods, and sharing information and lessons learned from DOE site-specific biota dose assessment efforts.

The development of methods for evaluating radiation doses to biota and implementing site-specific biota dose assessments requires a diverse set of scientific disciplines. The BDAC brings together the expertise in health physics, ecology, radioecology, environmental monitoring, and risk assessment that is needed to serve the Department as an effective resource to meet the purpose and objectives identified in this Charter.

### **OBJECTIVES** -

1. Serve as the DOE focal point for biota dose assessment technical standards issues.
2. Function as the Preparing Activity/Reviewing Activity for developing biota dose assessment technical standards. In this capacity the committee will provide assistance to the DOE Office with the primary interest for coordination of newly-published technical standards.
3. Provide review and comment, and help establish the DOE-wide position on DOE, non-DOE government, and non-government consensus biota dose assessment technical standards published or in comment coordination.
4. Assist, consistent with DOE needs, in national or international biota dose assessment technical standards development.
5. The BDAC will assist in the Department's efforts to develop a cost-effective, easy-to-implement screening methodology for assessing radiation doses to biota which can be used in demonstrating compliance with DOE and internationally-recommended biota dose standards.
6. Serve as an advisory and technical assistance resource to DOE Program and Operations Offices in the application of biota dose assessment technical standards, and in the design and technical review of site-specific biota dose assessments.

7. Establish and maintain liaison with other DOE topical committees having mutual interests through the Technical Standards Program Office (TSPO). The committee shall advise all other DOE technical committees on the preparation of standards related in subject matter and the correlation and consolidations of similar standards prepared by these committees, and promote cooperation between these technical committees in areas of common interest.
8. Partner and interface with counterparts in standards development organizations (i.e., American National Standards Institute, American Nuclear Society) and other Federal agencies in the development and review of national and international technical standards.
9. Participate with representatives of other topical committees and the TSP manager to establish guidance and protocols for topical committee operations under the TSP.
10. Foster continuous improvement in biota dose assessment methods and guidance.
11. Share information and lessons learned from DOE site-specific biota dose assessment efforts.
12. Share and exchange information on technical, policy, and research needs for consideration by DOE when interacting with Federal and International Agencies on biota dose standards and assessment methods.

#### MEMBERSHIP -

Membership in the BDAC is open to DOE employees and DOE contractors who have interest in or responsibility for biota dose assessments through environmental and radiological protection programs and environmental risk assessment activities. Representation from each interested Program and Operations Office is a membership objective of the BDAC. The BDAC Steering Committee may set guidelines on the size of the BDAC to allow for work processes within the committee to be effective.

#### STEERING COMMITTEE -

The BDAC will be chaired by Mr. Stephen Domotor, DOE, Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance (EH-41), Air, Water and Radiation Division (EH-412). A Steering Committee, comprised of six representatives having the technical expertise needed for developing methods and guidance for biota dose assessment, has been established for the BDAC. The BDAC will be governed by the Steering Committee and the Chairperson (or a designated representative).

#### SPONSORSHIP -

The BDAC, formed in March 1998, is a technical standards topical committee organized under the DOE Technical Standards Program (TSP). The following principles will govern its operation:

***Collaboration and Innovation:*** The BDAC will use and promote partnerships to leverage resources, expertise, and information on biota dose technical standards. The BDAC will use innovative tools and approaches to make biota dose assessment methods, guidance and expertise available to our customers.

***Openness:*** The BDAC will take a consensus-based approach when developing technical standards for screening methodologies for biota dose assessment. The BDAC will be open to all persons who are directly and materially affected by the activity.

***Balance of Interests:*** All technical standards development activities undertaken by the BDAC will include representatives of all categories of interest that relate to the subject matter. The composition of the BDAC Steering Committee reflects this principle.

**Due Process:** The BDAC will ensure that any individual or organization within DOE who believes that an action or inaction of the committee causes unreasonable hardship or potential harm is provided the opportunity to have a fair hearing of his/her concerns. A formal review process will be applied to all biota dose assessment standard methods and guidance developed through the BDAC.

**Reporting:** The BDAC Chair and/or Steering Committee will report on BDAC activities to the DOE TSPO on a regular basis. BDAC members will foster two-way communication within their organization by providing informal updates on the activities of the BDAC and bringing informal issues and recommendations back to the BDAC for consideration.

**MEETINGS** -

The BDAC Steering Committee will meet via teleconference as frequently as needed to complete work on specific tasks or milestones. The full BDAC will meet on an as-needed basis via teleconference and annually in-person at a formal meeting or workshop. The BDAC will seek to operate in a cost-effective and efficient manner, and will use innovative approaches to share information on issues, guidance and technical tools, and reviews of draft products through the BDAC Web Site.

This Charter was adopted on:

June 12, 1998

Approved:



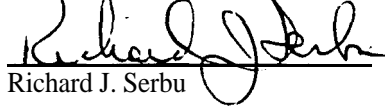
Andrew Wallo III  
Director  
Air, Water and Radiation (EH-412)

Approved:



Stephen L. Domotor  
Chairman  
Biota Dose Assessment Committee

Approved by the DOE Technical Standards Program (TSP) Office:



Richard J. Serbu